

REMARKS

Claims 13-24 are pending. By this amendment, claim 13 is amended.

The Office Action indicates that a new abstract is required. A new abstract is added and approval is requested.

The Office Action indicates that claims 16-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the reasons set forth below, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejects claims 13-15 under 35 USC 102 over Takedomi (US Pat. 6,988,575) and rejects claim 24 under 25 USC 103 over Takedomi in view of the Examiner's Official Notice. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 13 recites a seat disposed above the floor panel, the seat having a back portion and a bottom portion, a battery pack having a plurality of battery unit cells or battery modules in accordance with a performance of a vehicle, the battery pack being disposed between the floor panel and the bottom portion of the seat. In contrast, in Takedomi, the battery pack 20 is disposed behind the seat back 20, and is not disposed between the bottom of the seat and the floor panel.

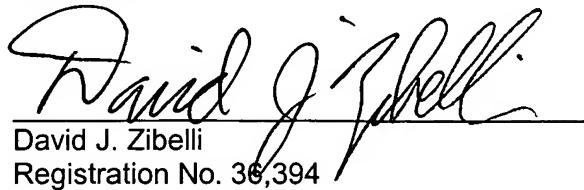
For the above reasons, claims 13-15 are not anticipated by Takedomi. Further, because claim 24 depends from claim 13, claim 24 is not obvious over Takedomi in view of Official Notice for the same reasons and because the Official Notice does not solve the above-noted deficiencies of Takedomi. Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4232 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

PATENT
Serial No: 10/542,051
Docket No: 10517-281

Applicants do not believe that any additional fees are required in connection with this submission. Nonetheless, Applicants authorize payment of any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit of any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,



David J. Zibelli
Registration No. 36,394

Dated: June 22, 2006

KENYON & KENYON LLP
1500 K Street, N.W. - Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: (202) 220-4200
Fax: (202) 220-4201
614250